DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The physical targets of Madhya Pradesh in respect of National Old Age Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme based on the financial allocation made to the State during 1999-2000 are 4,89,900 and 38,052 respectively.

(b) The achievement made by the State during 1998-99 is 94.12% in respect of National Old Age Pension Scheme. The achievement in respect of National Family benefit Scheme is 93.20%

Old Age Pension in Punjab

1491. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided with old age pension in Punjab during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the number of SC/ST provided old age pension; and

(c) the procedure and frequency for providing pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Number of persons benefited under National Old Age Pension Scheme in Punjab during the last two years are as under:

Year	No. of beneficiaries
1997-98	36500
1998-99	36500

(b) There are no ST beneficiaries under National Old Age Pension Scheme in the State. The number of SC persons benefited is 21910.

(c) The applicants—made or female who are 65 years of age or above and who are destitutes in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from their own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources are

given pensions under National Old Age Pension Scheme. The beneficiaries in the State are provided old age pension through Banks quarterly.

Unfit drinking water in tubewells in West Bengal

1492. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tube well water in a number of districts in West Bengal is unfit for drinking purposes;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to secure foreign expert cooperation to make the water free from arsenic and safe for human consumption; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) It has been reported by the Govt. of West Bengal that as per survey made upto June, 1999, some areas of eight districts have been found to be having Arsenic contamination in ground water. Some tubewells in these areas are observed to be yielding water with Arsenic exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.05 mg./ltr. Elimination plants developed by some foreign agencies are also being tried to ascertain the efficacy of the units. An International Workshop on Arsenic Contamination was organised at Calcutta in January, 2000 to exchange and share the views on Arsenic contamination in ground water.